

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: *Brannelly, Stafstrom, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Lyons, *dePara, Ayala, Martinez, Marella, Baker

*= arrived after roll call

ABSENT: Council member: Olson, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, Silva, Paoletto, Holloway

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:45 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

SUBJECT

Charter/Fiscal Governance.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS – JUNE 3, 2013

Council President McCarthy, Council members, my neighbors, taxpayers and voters in the audience, greetings.

Tonight we are near the final scene of Bridgeport's Annual Budget Pageant that features many long meetings for the Budget & Appropriations Committee that blend fellowship and food while you receive guidance and counsel from the folks who put the spending plan together. So it is not a 6% tax increase, but it is a tax increase after all, but can you tell me:

- What will happen in the next year when or if \$2 Million of union concessions do not happen? Is there a 'rainy day fund' to raid?
- Has the "minimum budget requirement" education issue been settled such that the City can duck the additional \$3.3 Million the State expected as recently as March 2013?
- Where does the annual review and vote on the Capital Budget stand? And where on the City web site is a schedule of all of the projects presented to the taxpaying public in the past five years and more that are short of completion?
- When will you begin receiving complete monthly financial reports as provided in the Charter, with full and accurate variance information? The March monthly was not available as of Friday May 31, 2013. But it was in your box today. Are you embarrassed? It projects a \$2.5 Million deficit. Are you concerned?
- What has happened to the Stipend issue in the past year? What is the public getting for providing \$9,000 to reimburse expenses for you? Are you ready to go public, yet? If not, why not? When you travel out of town where is the proof to the community that it is not about partying and good times? You provide no evidence of your learning, while you are spending the money of the taxpayers.
- Have you reviewed our Charter procedures recently, especially those around handling public funds? There are existing violations that I have reported and they continue to exist. Have you decided to ignore my comments? Perhaps you discuss them in caucus? Maybe you have asked City Attorney to provide you assurance that you are still law abiding? However, do you feel that you are meeting the expectations of the public? Are you waiting for the elections in the fall to find how the public will answer these questions?
- If I were to report that the budget book you just reviewed differs in material and significant aspects from information provided in monthly reports, Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and other City financial sources, would it surprise you? Does it matter to you? Do you genuinely think you are representing the voters and taxpayers of this City? One or more of you claim to have heard the public outcry this year, but failing to change your operating methods makes you guilty of failing in your Council work.

Finally, why do you continue to allow your Committee process to be stampeded when pressed to come to decisions without public input? Last week's Memorandum regarding Pension B Police and Fire Trustees was such an example. Millions of dollars released from City retiree pension funds to go to the State but no projections or actuarial data available to Council persons interested enough to attend and inquire of the Contracts

Committee? Three actuarial reports written from different perspectives and with differing assumptions, each one of them paid for with funds from Connecticut taxpayers. But they are not part of your due diligence. Strange? You bet.

"Don't worry", seemed to be the counsel of the City Attorney, who while admitting he has no actuarial or investment expertise, still was reassuring your fellow members that restating the power to tax the public while releasing no info about the current decision, was really about making Trustees feel more comfortable about their stewardship and not getting sued. Trust is not a word that the public uses today with respect to the way the City works. Does that bother you? Time will tell.

The following persons signed up to speak prior to the Public Speaking Session:

Cecil Young

99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mr. Young stated that "*justice delayed is justice denied*". He recalled past visits to address the council and submitting documents regarding his wrongful termination. He emphasized that everything that had been stated during the last seven years is available on his website. He went on to say that as a taxpayer and homeowner, he would like to see justice served. He mentioned that full documentation was submitted from his doctors, however; his complaints have been ignored regarding his civil rights that have been violated by city and state officials.

The following was included in a memo he distributed to the council members prior to the public speaking session:

The memo further mentioned the State Labor Board Arbitrators, Albert Murphy, Michael Culhane & Attorney Gerald Weiner who allowed Jodie Paul, City Labor Relations to change the fact that he was terminated for not returning to work (stating that he was at work) to an absenteeism problem and to intentionally lie during the arbitration hearing by saying that he resigned from his position of 27 years of city employment (stating that he was terminated). The arbitrators allowed this change and cover-up and intentionally lead Judge Sybil Richards during an appeal to believe that my doctor notes were "literally scraps of paper" and my doctors' signature wasn't legible.

I have filed a formal complaint with the U.S. Attorney's office who referred this information and many documents to the F.B.I. for an investigation. I continue to say that if anything I say isn't true, I ask to be charged accordingly. All this information, plus much more in depth is on my website. I thank everyone for your interest to visit my website www.cecilyoung.com

* CT. State workers committed a crime with the SNAP program, was fired but not criminally charged, yet the State Arbitrators gave them their jobs back. I was terminated

for whistle blowing about contaminated dirt piles and the Arbitrators conspired with City officials and ruled against me.

Cc: To Governor Malloy, asking that the Labor Board hearings be recorded to avoid what happened to me doesn't happen to others.

Cecil C. Young
Community Activist

Amos Brown
33 Orchard Street
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Brown spoke about the mission he is on. He mentioned the issue concerned him trying to speak to the Governor of Connecticut regarding crime in Bridgeport and other surrounding cities. He recalled that he put up posters regarding gun violence, but legislators all seem to be afraid to address the matter of gang violence. He emphasized that he will stay on his mission to bring the matter to the attention of politicians and others. He went on to speak about the overall problem of being discriminated against when it comes to justice to save our children. He repeated that he will continue to fight because the streets don't lie. He questioned where is the love that we are supposed to have for each other?

The public speaking session closed at 7:05 pm.

Council President McCarthy called for a caucus prior to the city council meeting at 7:06 pm.

The caucus ended at 7:32 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Stafstrom, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Lyons, dePara, Ayala, Martinez, Marella, Baker

ABSENT: Council member: Olson, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, Silva, Paoletto, Holloway

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Prayer - Council member Marella offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Brannelly led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum of eleven (11) council members.

Council President McCarthy requested a personal privilege to welcome the people that work with the Small Business Association and were present in the audience.

Mayor Finch expressed that there has been major expansion in minority contracting, noting that Deborah Caviness has headed that initiative. He recognized the Hispanic Chamber of the Small Business Association. He acknowledged that those present consisted of the fifth class that has participated in the workshops. He further thanked all the partners that were involved and participated in the workshops.

Council President McCarthy relayed certain aspects of the workshops that are taught, which consist of; writing a business plan, access to capital etc. He further expressed that it's the little guys that help build up the city through running businesses.

He acknowledged each person that was present by name, who came forward to be recognized – *a group picture was taken with members of SBA, Mayor Finch and Council President McCarthy.*

Council President McCarthy announced that the following council members were absent for the following reason(s):

Council member Bonney was attending his niece's graduation; Council member Holloway had a minor shoulder injury; Council member Olson was on vacation and Council member Blunt wasn't available to attend tonight.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 6, 2013 and May 13, 2013 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER STAFSTROM MOVED TO ACCEPT BOTH SETS OF MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

86-12 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Charles McNeill (D) to the Ethics Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

87-12 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Carrie Picardi (D) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

88-12 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Bruce Williams (D) to the Energy Improvement District, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

90-12 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Wesly Aponte, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

- 91-12** Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Natalie Nieves, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 92-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State Department of Education for 2013-2014 YSB Enhancement Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 93-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State Department of Education for 2013-2015 Youth Service Bureau Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 94-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: FY 2012-2013 Medical Reserve Corps Capacity Building Award (CBA) Competitive Award, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 95-12** Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds, referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.
- 96-12** Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of Revenue Bonds – Jewish Home Project, Series 2013, referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.
- 97-12** Communication from Finance Department re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax payment Agreement for the Development of a Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facility at 4200 Park Avenue (The Jewish Home Project), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 98-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Approving a Lease and Option to Purchase Agreement with JRRC Associates for 53 Seaview Avenue and 85 Seaview Avenue, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

89-12 Communication from Mayor re: Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

Council member Baker questioned why the item didn't go before committee. Mayor Finch responded that Chapter-5 paragraph 4-F of the charter outlines the reason the item isn't required to go before committee.

Council member Baker stated that he wouldn't vote to approve the item and that he would vote against it due to questions he had regarding the mill rate.

Mayor Finch stated that there must be a two-thirds vote by the council to waive the vote to committee; however, they are required by charter to approve it.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO WAIVE THE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER and LYONS)**

*** EIGHT COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE ABSENT**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Council President McCarthy requested to remove item ***68-12** Miscellaneous Matters

Committee Report re: Appointment of Andrea L. Townsend (D) to the Ethics Commission.

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record.

***34-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. #11-99) Community Capital Fund, Inc. (Successor to Bridgeport Neighborhood Fund, Inc.) Request to Release Reverter on 107-109 Columbia Street, 117 Columbia Street, 123-125 Columbia Street; 29 Ridge Avenue and 35 Ridge Avenue (the "Properties").

- *45-12(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for June 17, 2013: re Disposition of Property Located at 1136, 1144, 1148-50, 1154-56 and 1160-62 Main Street (“The Preservation Block”) and Authorization of a Partial Tax Abatement in Support of the Preservation Block’s Historic Renovation and Redevelopment as a Mixed-Use Residential, Retail and Commercial Complex.
- *55-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) and The Scotts Miracle – Gro Company for GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Grant.
- *70-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Grant Submission: 2013 Neighborhood Assistance Act.
- *71-12(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: (Ref. #151-11)Public Hearing Ordered for June 17, 2013: re Disposition of Property located at 1163 and 1149 Main Street in the Downtown North Redevelopment Area.
- *72-12(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for June 17, 2013: re Disposition of Properties in the Jayson-Newfield Block in the Downtown North Redevelopment Area and Authorizing a Tax Incentive Agreement in support of the Jayson-Newfield Block’s Historic Renovation and Redevelopment as a Mixed-Use Residential, Retail and Commercial Complex.
- *74-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Resolution concerning the Lease Agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation re: I-95 Rights of Way Properties at the Intersection of South and Myrtle Avenues for Roosevelt School Construction, Agreement No. 10.19-04(12) File No. 015-046-006A.
- *76-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Rehabilitation of Augustana Homes at 525 Palisade Avenue.
- *68-12** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Andrea L. Townsend (D) to the Ethics Commission. – *removed*
- *75-12** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Theresa Timpanelli.

***80-12** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Vilmarie Reyes v. City of Bridgeport and Angel Rodriguez

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to item ***68-12** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Andrea L. Townsend (D) to the Ethics Commission.

Council President stated that the item would be returned to committee for further discussion and review.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy requested a Moment of Silence for the following:

The hit and run victim.

The passing of Council member Taylor-Moye's sister.

Other announcements:

Council member Brantley expressed that her goddaughter gave birth to a baby boy today.

Council President requested a Moment of Silence for Wade Ratzenberger, former Barnum Festival official.

Council President McCarthy recognized Council member Banta's son Jonathan who he expressed may be the future Mayor of Bridgeport!

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services